

# W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

## Dits & Bits

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★ In This Issue ★  
Hams & Hands Across America  
New Extra Class Question Pool  
Ham Says FCC Violated Rights  
W2NSD/1 in the National News  
Amateur Radio Call Signs Issued  
March Ham Licensing Statistics  
Census of Amateurs by State  
Canadian Ham Loses RFI Case  
Ham License Study Materials  
Roy Neal, 1986 Ham-of-the-Year  
N.A.B. Holds Dallas Convention  
Telecommunications News,  
and much, much more!



## Ham Radio to Support "Hands Across America"

Two New Jersey amateur radio operators have been selected to organize the communications networks required to pull off "Hands Across America" - an effort to raise \$60 million for America's homeless and hungry.

New Jersey amateurs, Nancie Crincoli, (KB2AKG) and Charles Kosman (WB2NQV) were chosen due to their long time backgrounds in public service communications. No stranger to massive amateur radio public service endeavors, Kosman was one of the driving forces in coordinating the efforts of the nation's ham operators providing communications during the 82-day coast-to-coast 1984 Olympic Torch relay.

As with the torch run, Kosman will be taking vacation time from his AT&T job to organize the "Hands Across America" communications network since hams are prohibited from being paid for amateur radio ventures. This time, however, the coast-to-coast effort involving thousands of participating amateurs must be completed in six hours!

Needed will be the assistance of an estimated 4,350 amateur radio operators along the winding 4,152 mile route from California to New York - about one amateur per mile - to provide communication support for Hands Across America's operational and security officials.

Organized by the USA for Africa Foundation, "Hands" is anticipating six million people will hold hands across North America. Each will ante up \$10 to stand in line and sing "We Are the World", "America the Beautiful" and a special song being written for the occasion. It will be the largest amateur radio public service event ever attempted by far.

### THE CONCEPT

"Hands Across America", a project of United Support of Artists for Africa, will be the largest interactive event in the history of mankind! The Guinness Book of World Records will be on hand to witness the human chain of nearly 6 million people linked from coast-to-coast at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (12 noon Pacific Standard Time) on Sunday, May 25th.

Make no mistake about it, the undertaking is very well organized! Chaired by singer Kenny Rogers, ex-baseball player Pete Rose, and comics, Bill Cosby and Lily Tomlin, a massive campaign is now underway to recruit corporate sponsors, organize media promotional support and obtain the backing of America's various national organizations. Well known artists such as Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie and Harry Belafonte serve on its Board of Directors.

Unlike We Are the World, "Hands Across

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #2

May 1, 1986

America" funds will stay at home. It is estimated that at least twenty million U.S. citizens suffer from hunger and 2.5 million are homeless. It is these needy people that will benefit.

## THE ROUTE....

"Hands Across America" will cross 16 states and the District of Columbia. New York City is the eastern end of the chain, Los Angeles - the western. Amateur radio operators are needed in these states. (@1 Per Mile)

California	200	Indiana	275
Arizona	500	Ohio	600
New Mexico	400	Pennsylvania	325
Texas	650	Dist. of Col.	25
Arkansas	350	Maryland	175
Tennessee	125	Delaware	50
Kentucky	75	New Jersey	75
Missouri	125	New York	50
Illinois	350	<b>TOTAL:.....</b>	<b>4,350</b>

To give you an idea of the magnitude of this project, the "direct line" Hands mileage is 4,152 miles with a population along this line of 22.8 million. 5,480,641 people will be needed to stand in the line - nearly 25% of the available population! About 1% of the nation's licensed ham radio operators are slated to participate.

Some states will need far more people standing in line than population along the route. For example, New Mexico has a "quota" of 529,320 participants with only a population of 392,500 along the line. New Mexico's total state population is only 1,304,000. This means more than 40% of the state of New Mexico will be standing in a line that crosses from Phoenix, Arizona, through Albuquerque, New Mexico enroute to Amarillo, Texas. (819,720 hand holders are needed in Texas.) The organizers are confident that bus loads of participants will travel to the line where needed.

## THE ORGANIZATION

Hands Across America is being produced in association with the Coca-Cola Company. Ken Kragen is the President of and the driving force behind USA for Africa. He is also one of the most qualified! A graduate of Har-

vard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Kragen is only the second private citizen to be honored with the United Nations Peace Medal. He thinks very big!

Fred Droz, National Project Manager, brings 20 years of major event organization to "Hands Across America." A member of President Carter's White House 1977 Reorganization Staff, Droz also is President of his own management and political consulting firm and holds a JD in law.

The National "Hands Across America" Office Staff is made up of some twenty major departments with national headquarters in Los Angeles. There are nine operating groups. The organizational chart shows that the duty of the "May 25th Operations Group" is to (1.) Survey Route, (2.) Route Marking, (3.) Obtaining local clearances and (4.) Coordinating state and local support activities and security. Amateur radio will provide all of the communications necessary for this last function.

## HOW AMATEUR RADIO WILL DO IT....

Amateur radio got included when Ken Kragen contacted AT&T regarding needed medical, security and logistical communications support. He knew of their involvement in the Olympic Torch Run. It was at that point that AT&T's Charlie Kosman, WB2NQV, got involved. He asked Nancie, KB2AKG, to join him since they both had been involved in other public service work. She has a medical and security background.

Kosman then, through Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director, asked for and received the cooperation of the ARRL field organization. Mendelsohn, a CBS-New York executive, recommended to League president, Larry Price, W4RA, that the ARRL formally commit to being the communications provider of record. The ARRL Board of Directors all agreed that this project was public service on a scale that had never been attempted before.

On Sunday, May 25th, 210 communications command posts each covering 20 miles (and 20 ham posts) will be activated many

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

May 1, 1986

hours before the 3:00 p.m. (EDT) deadline. These posts will report to sixteen different State Coordinators who in turn will be in radio/teleconference bridge contact through Chicago to "Hands Across America" headquarters in Los Angeles.

Lou Appel, K0IUQ, of The Darome Connection (and North American Teleconference Radio Net fame) is donating his national teleconferencing capability to the project. A special May 1st TRN will tell the amateur community more about "Hands Across America." Direct HF ham radio communications will also be used to National Headquarters in Los Angeles where appropriate.

Hams in the field will use primarily VHF and UHF mobile and hand-held transceivers although portable 6 meter FM and 40/80 meter operation could be used in sparsely populated areas. The SCM will decide on the bands to be used.

All amateur radio operators and groups that are interested in participating are being requested to contact their ARRL Section Communications Manager. (Addresss and phone numbers are listed on Page 8 of QST.) If you don't get QST, then drop a QSL card with your phone number on it to: "Hands..."; P.O. Box 308; Quakertown, N.J. 08868, for further information.

Amateur radio will be the means of making sure that "Hands Across America" comes off. It will also be amateur radio that confirms that everybody is on line holding hands! This promises to be the largest single ham radio event in our nation and should bring a lot of national favorable publicity to our hobby. The "Hands Across America" ham radio team will also have a booth at this week's Dayton HamVention.

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## FCC RELEASES NEW EXTRA CLASS POOL

The FCC has released a new version of the Amateur Extra Class question pool. PR Bulletin 1035D was issued the first week in April. The new Extra Class question pool must be used by all VEC's by October 1 - although VEC's can change over sooner. The changes primarily involve clarifications and rewording

and the addition of a total of 56 new questions. Thus the Extra Class question pool now consists of 456 rather than 400 questions.

Thirty-nine of the new questions are in Subelement "A" (Rules and Regulations) on the FCC's volunteer examination program. Covered are new questions on expense reimbursement, VE accreditation, conflicts of interest, preparation of Morse code and written tests, VE and VEC duties, etc. Instead of 80 questions, there are now 124 questions in this section.

A few other new questions have been added to the Practical Circuits subelement. The values of all circuit components remain the same, however. Signals & Emissions now have ten additional questions although they are just an expansion of existing questions.

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## AMATEUR SAYS FCC VIOLATED RIGHTS....

Robert J. King, WB8WKA, of Redford Township, Michigan, has asked that the FCC put aside his 14 day voluntary suspension of his commercial radio operator's license.

Early last year, the FCC's Detroit office received numerous complaints of malicious interference to communications on the Detroit Amateur Radio Team's 146.04/.64 repeater system. King was one of the subjects of the complaints. The FCC began monitoring that channel.

On March 31, 1985, engineers from the FCC's Detroit office observed King allegedly making unidentified "tone signal" transmissions on the D.A.R.T. repeater input frequency. Two engineers said they DF'ed the signals to the King home and saw an individual matching his description through what appeared to be an upstairs amateur radio room window. The FCC said that additional amateur transmissions made on April 1 were identified by King's name, but not his assigned amateur radio call sign in violation of the rules.

King was criminally charged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan as a result of the jamming. A pre-trial agreement was reached with the U.S. attorney, however, that King would agree to

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #4

May 1, 1986

12 months of supervision by a Pre-Trial Services Officer without admitting guilt. The agreement included dismissing charges if the King complied with the terms of the agreement.

On December 12, 1985, King was notified by a letter from the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau that the alleged events of March 31 could give rise to suspension of his commercial license which King requires in his employment. He was given an alternative of voluntarily surrendering his license for 14 days after which the FCC would take no further action against him.

King denied all wrongdoing, but concluded considering cost in time and resources that it would be simpler to submit to a 14 day suspension with the understanding that the surrender was not an admission of guilt. King also requested a hearing concerning the status of his amateur license.

It came as a surprise to King when the voluntary suspension order on his commercial license contained findings and conclusions that he disputed particularly in view of a planned hearing on his amateur radio license.

King has now filed a Petition for Re-consideration charging that his "due process rights" were violated. He said he never interfered with the WA8CTY/R repeater or engaged in illegal broadcasting. He maintains that the FCC had no basis for issuing a suspension order on his commercial license. King further asks that all conclusions and findings in the February 12th, 1986, affirmation order be vacated or held in abeyance until the outcome of action on his amateur radio operator license.

Cliff Wells, KA7TVC, erected an Isopole 2-meter antenna at his apartment in Kirkland, Washington, (a Seattle suburb) recently. He had permission from the building owner. Although the antenna extended only a few feet above the roof, a neighbor objected.

Cliff was slapped with a citation when he inquired about the antenna policy at the local City Hall. It seems that an ordinance does exist that requires engineering drawings

and a \$350 fee to have a hearing examiner review the application. According to the decree, transmitting antennas must be erected only at the minimum height required and "not interfere with the rights of neighbors."

Cliff is now in the process of appealing the citation, hoping for support from the ARRL and that the recent PRB-1 ruling by the FCC will help to convince the town government that the ordinance is vague, unenforceable and not in the best interest of the community. The law only applies to private transmitting antennas. It would be legal if the antenna was for receiving only or was erected by the fire department.

## W2NSD'S MAGAZINE TITLE TO REMAIN....

The New York Daily News (which has the largest circulation of any newspaper in the nation) carried a feature story in their business section recently about Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 of 73 Magazine fame.

It seems that Green, the editor-publisher of Digital Audio magazine, was named in a trademark infringement suit filed by CBS Publishing. CBS cited "confusion in the marketplace" between Digital Audio and their Audio magazine. Launched two years ago, Digital Audio has developed into a very successful publication indeed! Apparently it is creeping into CBS's share of the market. CBS's Audio has been around for some 30 years.

Green agreed to a slight name change by adding Compact Disk Review to the title and, looking toward the future, even held a full-blown name changing contest. But CBS has had a change of heart, and now has dropped the suit against Green. Digital Audio's name won't be further changed.

The Daily News article also said Green's latest venture involves introducing and selling a new educational technique overseas. Wayne said he had plans "to educate the masses..."

The story also detailed how Green sold eight of his magazines (including 73 Magazine) "for \$60 million worth of credit instead of cash."

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# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #5

May 1, 1986

## AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS....

issued through the first of April 1986.

Radio District:	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tec/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0	NRØO	KEØEN	NØGYW	KAØWIP
1	ND1X	KB1XK	N1EAR	KA1OGR
2	NQ2P	KD2SG	N2GFH	KB2AJQ
3	NA3A	KC3WC	N3EVK	KA3PIE
4	AA4RT	KJ4SK	N4NTA	KB4SIH
5	WJ5K	KF5KY	N5JAZ	KA5ZIO
6	WR6P	KI6DQ	N6NKB	KB6MCX
7	NT7K	KE7OI	N7IAF	KA7YJS
8	NQ8W	KE8EK	N8HHG	KA8ZDK
9	NJ9T	KD9WB	N9FSP	KA9VBW
N. Mariana I	AHØE	AHØAC	KHØAI	WHØAAG
Guam	AH2W	AH2BF	KH2BX	WH2AIV
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	**	AH6GV	NH6FR	WH6BHS
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAV
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AC	KH9AB	WH9AAE
Alaska	**	AL7HU	NL7HS	WL7BJQ
Virgin Is.	KP2O	KP2AX	NP2BT	WP2AES
Puerto Rico	WP4Q	KP4KA	NP4UB	WP4FFX

(Note: [\*\*] All Group "A" call signs have been assigned in Hawaii and Alaska. Group "B" format call signs now being issued to Extra Class amateurs in these two states.)

## MARCH AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS...

	March 1985	1986
New First Time Amateurs:	2,001	1,606
Novice Class Upgrading:	933	877
Technician Class Upgrading:	418	311
General Class Upgrading:	376	337
Advanced Class Upgrading:	196	230
Total Amateurs Upgrading:	1,923	1,755
Amateurs Failing to Renew:	518	1,237
Change in Amateur Census:	+1,483	+439
Month End Amateur Census:	410,775	420,787
Club/Military/RACES:	2,850	2,740
Total Active Stations:	413,625	423,527
Increase in Amateur Census:		2.39%
Census by State:		

State 1985	1986	+% State	1985	1986	+%
AL 5701	5901	3.5	NH 2656	2751	3.6
AK 1966	1997	1.6	NJ 12936	12979	.3
AZ 7470	7762	3.9	NM 2659	2804	5.5

State	1985	1986	+%	State	1985	1986	+%
AR	3112	3190	2.5	NY	25892	26233	1.3
CA	56796	58209	2.5	NC	8095	8510	5.1
CO	6609	6821	3.2	ND	1008	1045	3.7
CT	6319	6492	2.7	OH	20314	20491	.9
DE	984	1018	3.5	OK	5007	5185	3.6
DC	409	412	.7	OR	7595	7779	2.4
FL	24039	25230	5.0	PA	17170	17447	1.6
GA	7571	7855	3.8	RI	1615	1634	1.2
HI	1836	1936	5.4	SC	3505	3652	4.2
ID	1940	1959	1.0	SD	1083	1094	1.0
IL	17482	17593	.6	TN	7539	7695	2.1
IN	9814	9967	1.6	TX	24208	24858	2.7
IA	5036	5007	-.6	UT	2460	2609	6.1
KS	4565	4634	1.5	VT	1017	1050	3.2
KY	4534	4587	1.2	VA	9270	9592	3.5
LA	4718	4828	2.3	WA	12588	12898	2.5
ME	2402	2472	2.9	WV	2982	3050	2.3
MD	7434	7646	2.8	WI	6600	6760	2.4
MA	11101	11173	.6	WY	917	945	3.1
MI	14249	14320	.5	GU	162	235	45.1
MN	7202	7230	3.2	PR	3162	3807	20.4
MS	2512	2585	2.9	VI	157	169	7.6
MO	8078	8206	1.6	AS	16	19	18.5
MT	1570	1593	1.5	JL	2	1	-50.
NE	2774	2854	2.9	NMI	16	18	12.5
NV	1911	1991	4.2	O	10	9	10.0

(TOTAL: 1985=410,775 1986=420,787 +2.44%)

[NOTE: GU=Guam, PR=Puerto Rico, VI=Virgin Is., AS=American Samoa, JL=Johnston Is., NMI=N. Mariana Isl., O=Other]

[Source: FCC Licensing Div./Gettysburg, PA]

Basically what the above amateur census shows is that the FCC's new volunteer examination program is working! Biggest increases are coming from the southwest, Florida, Hawaii ...Puerto Rico which are predominantly retirement states. Northeast and north central U.S. show the smallest growth in amateur radio.

## Amateur Radio Licenses Processed by FCC:

March	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Total:	7,788	16,174	15,037	11,691	10,478

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¶ FCC's Ray Kowalski will be attending this weekend's Dayton Hamvention. We asked him if he would be making an announcement on "Novice Enhancement" and "Repeater Coordination" (Docket 85-22) as rumored. Ray said that the staff had completed work on both matters, but that he did not know if action would be completed in time by the Commissioners to make them public at Dayton.

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #6

May 1, 1986

## APPLIANCE RFI CASE GOES AGAINST HAM

In what is being termed as a crushing defeat for amateur radio and a flagrant miscarriage of Canadian justice, VE3SR, has lost his court battle to get back on the amateur airwaves.

Ontario District Court Judge W. T. Hollinger has issued a permanent injunction restraining amateur Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR, from operating his amateur radio equipment because it interferes with various appliances belonging to a neighbor. Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Houghtby charged that VE3SR's signals interfere with their electric organ, color TV, stereo, microwave oven, radio and a furnace located in the basement. They sued to stop the interference alleging "nuisance."

Even though Canadian amateurs can be required to install filters and/or reduce effective radiated power or antenna height, the government chose not to require this since a DOC check determined that Ravenscroft's station was clean.

In his ruling, the judge said that no evidence exists that indicates the microwave oven was being interfered with since repair by Sears apparently cured the problem. The plaintiff's Yamaha electronic organ high pitched squeal was reduced by 75% when additionally filtered.

The furnace problems were also corrected when a toroid collar was installed by a technician and the Canadian Department of Communications. [We thought it unusual that the DOC was involved in this installation, but that is how the judgement read.] The Houghtby television sets supposedly were damaged by the amateur radio transmissions.

At the request of the defendants, the Department of Communications conducted tests to determine which electrical appliances were affected by radio transmissions from VE3SR's amateur radio station. The DOC reports show that the microwave was not affected. The organ and the television were affected when the antenna was rotated to certain directions. The RFI to a small radio varied with transmitter power.

The DOC concluded in their report to the court that the electrical devices at the Houghtby residence were indeed affected by Ravenscroft's transmissions, but the RFI could be eliminated by transmitter power reduction and limiting certain beam headings.

Ravenscroft maintained that he was operating his amateur radio station properly and within the terms of the license granted and that the electrical appliances malfunction in that they do not adequately reject the radio transmission signal.

In a letter to the court, the DOC's Minister of Communications agreed that the interference was not the fault of the amateur radio equipment but "rather the inability of these devices to adequately reject the amateur's transmissions." He confirmed that appliance manufacturers often choose lower cost alternatives to adequate RFI measures.

The judge noted that even though the DOC could have taken steps to reduce or prevent interference, they chose not to. Canadian law defines nuisance as "interference to the beneficial use of the occupied premises... [or] physical injury to those premises or property of the plaintiff." Legal intervention is warranted when an excessive use of property causes inconvenience beyond what occupiers in the vicinity can be expected to bear.

The judge ruled that he was satisfied that it "would be difficult and probably impossible to completely suppress the plaintiff's equipment from interference" caused by VE3SR's amateur radio station.

The court ruled that the plaintiff's interests were therefore being invaded and found VE3SR liable for \$58.60 in out-of-pocket costs (although the judge disallowed the microwave and television repair bills.) Judge Hollinger issued a permanent injunction against Ravenscroft's amateur operation and awarded the plaintiff an additional \$2,500 for "inconvenience and interference with the enjoyment of the defendants ...electronic equipment." VE3SR is also responsible for the Houghtby's legal costs plus interest.

The judgement was rendered April 7,

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #7

May 1, 1986

1986. It has not been decided whether VE3SR will appeal, but his defense fund is still in need of funds (JRSD Fund; P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3J2)

Amateurs in Canada are very concerned that a legal government precedence has now been set and that the unexpected "nuisance" ruling could be as the basis for other RFI suits.

## COULD THIS HAPPEN IN THE U.S.?

It is doubtful, but some municipalities are trying. The document having authority over radio transmissions in the United States is the Communications Act of 1934 as amended. It clearly gives exclusive jurisdiction in this area to the Federal Communications Commission.

The Township of Ewing, New Jersey, has recently enacted an ordinance prohibiting radio transmissions that "interfere with the operation of televisions, phonographs or other such household entertainment devices, in such a manner as to disturb the peace, comfort, enjoyment, or general well being of others."

The ARRL recently asked for an opinion from the Federal Communications Commission on the legality of the New Jersey ordinance. In a response to the League, FCC General Counsel Jack D. Smith said that he believes:

(1.) ...the Township ordinance is illegal since the interference provisions of the Act are so widespread that Congress obviously intended to preempt any state regulation in this area.

(2.) ...a recently enacted Section 302(a)(2) provides that the FCC may establish "...minimum performance standards for home electronic equipment and systems to reduce their susceptibility to interference from radio frequency energy."

"Thus," the FCC said, "under these provisions we may regulate both interference between two radio transmitting stations or between a radio transmitting station and home entertainment equipment. Furthermore, the legislative history of Section 302(a) expressly

indicates that Congress intended these two provisions to be exclusive of all state or local regulation of radio frequency interference."

(3.) The FCC said that under Part 97 of the rules it "is established who may operate as an amateur, what frequencies may be used and what practices are permitted."

"State and local laws that either require amateurs to cease operation or pay fines when interference occurs conflict with our regulatory scheme. This is especially true when amateurs, who are fully complying with our rules, must cease operation or operate at technical levels below those established in our rules in order to avoid state or local sanctions."

On the other hand, even though it appears that the FCC has complete jurisdiction over all transmissions of radio signals, it must be pointed out that VE3SR was not charged with "RFI interference", but with violating the Canadian "nuisance" statutes.

## HAM LICENSE PREPARATION MATERIALS

We have a new "Learn the Morse Code" cassette tape available which starts at "ground zero" and teaches code to beginners. Practice tapes at 5-7½ wpm (Novice), 10-13 wpm (General) and 15-20 wpm (Extra) also available. Cost is \$4.95 for each tape (plus \$1.00 postage each.)

Our new W5YI Novice Manual contains all 200 FCC Novice Multiple Choice Questions and answers. Included are 3 different versions of the 20 question Novice Element 2 written examination and instructions on how to give the test. Cost: \$4.00 plus \$1.25 postage.

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# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #8

May 1, 1986

## ROY NEAL, K6DUE, HAM-OF-THE YEAR....

The Dayton Hamvention, the nation's largest gathering of ham radio operators, has selected Roy Neal, K6DUE, of NBC News as 1986 "Radio Amateur of the Year." He was nominated by Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and Bert Hicks, WB6MQV, of Westlink.

Neal was first licensed at age 13 in Wayne, Pennsylvania as W3GIB. He has been active ever since. It was his interest in amateur radio that led to his life long and highly successful career as one of the nation's leading broadcast journalists. He began his broadcast career as Chief Announcer and News Editor at WIBG-AM at age 20.

Roy was Program Manager for Armed Forces Radio - Europe while stationed in Germany after the end of World War II. As soon as amateur radio operations was permitted after the war, Roy was on 10 meters running phone patches from troops in Europe to their families stateside.

He was among the very first to design and put into operation the tri-band beam antenna. His design used stubs and remote relays to shift bands and predated the concept of trap-type multi-band beam antenna arrays.

In 1952, NBC transferred Roy to California to establish the NBC News West Coast Bureau and he was issued K6DUE. 1958 saw the birth of NASA. One of Roy's greatest triumphs was his convincing NASA that there was genuine public interest in their activities, thus paving the way for all newsmen to be made welcome. He chronicled just about every event surrounding the conquest of space.

Both Roy and Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, dreamed of amateur operation from the space shuttle. It was he that sold the idea to NASA by convincing them that a demonstration of air-to-ground personal communications using gear independent of the spacecraft would not only be beneficial to the NASA public image, but could also prove the viability of such as back-up communications if normal spacecraft communications systems failed. Based upon the respect that NASA's

management has for Roy and their trust in his judgement, the inclusion of amateur radio equipment to be operated by Dr. Garriott was approved. Without Roy, the STS-9 nor the 51-F "Ham-in-Space" operation would have occurred.

Neal narrated and helped produce without charge five feature video films about amateur radio between 1975 and 1985.

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD....

Dayton's "Special Achievement Award" goes to Rev. Michael Mullen, C.M., WB2GQW, president of the International Mission Radio Association, Inc. His specialty is public relations and as a result of his work, the IMRA has grown greatly in size and the importance of public service via amateur radio has been brought to the attention of millions of people. He has been involved in producing many TV and cable shows and in originating articles about IMRA that has appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines.

## TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD....

The "Technical Achievement Award" goes to W1FB, Doug DeMaw. He is perhaps the most prolific technical author in the history of QST. His writing style is such that any non-technical person can easily understand his electronic projects that cover just about every facet of basic radio. He was nominated by Doug Williams, WB4EGX, of Moreland Georgia.

All three winners will be honored at the Dayton Awards Banquet to be held Saturday evening, April 26. Ironically, Roy Neal, K6DUE, is also scheduled to be the keynote speaker. He will now have to make two speeches!

By the way, if you plan on attending Dayton, stop by and say hello! We will be in Booth #475.

¶ A new procedure called "attestation" in Canada allows amateurs to avoid paying \$10.00 to the DOC for Morse code sending and receiving tests by having other amateurs attest to their code ability.

DO YOU EXCERPT OR QUOTE FROM "THE W5YI REPORT?"

WOULD YOU DO US A FAVOR?

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #9

May 1, 1986

## HAM IN HOG HEAVEN! W5YI AT THE N.A.B.

"Tuning in America" was the theme of the National Association of Broadcasters' 64th Annual Convention held last week. Some 40,000 broadcasters from 25 countries (compared to last year's 37,000) and 700 exhibitors jammed the 305,000 square foot Dallas Convention Center. It was the slickest, best managed convention that I have ever been to - and I have been to hundreds.

## WHO WAS THERE!

President Reagan was there via video tape talking to his "fellow broadcasters." FCC Commissioners James Quello, Mimi Dawson and Ex-Commissioner Margita White attended the Ham Reception held Monday night. Both a reserved Quello and a bubbly Dawson addressed more than the 1,000 amateur radio operators assembled at the (open-bar and free hors d'oeuvres) Hyatt Reunion Ballroom bash. It must have cost a fortune! Mimi told the hams that she was studying the code and would let us know next year how she was doing. (It seems to me she said this two years ago during the open Commission meeting considering no-code. I think she's putting us on.)

FCC Chairman Mark Fowler and Dennis Patrick were at the N.A.B., but didn't appear at the Ham Reception. Speculation was that this is Fowler's last N.A.B. and that he will leave the FCC in 60 days. I wasn't able to get the Commissioners aside to discuss amateur radio issues since everyone wanted to greet them. They legally couldn't have discussed matters under consideration anyway. I sure would like to have found out just how much they know about the issues they rule on.

Also in attendance at the N.A.B. was Chief Justice Warren Burger, George Plimpton, Stan Freberg, Dionne Warwick... Actor Gregory Peck was scheduled to tell the broadcasters about the "Hands Across America" project to combat domestic hunger and homelessness. Singer Willie Nelson - scheduled to appear, didn't. Dolly Parton took his place.

The Voice of America was recruiting technicians and engineering professionals for their "modernization campaign." Even the

Army/Air Force/Navy/Marines had booths promoting their "awareness TV spots."

Thirty-nine Congressmen attended the convention according to the program. Everyone seemed so happy. The program listed over 160 hospitality suites! There is nothing like a convention to loosen up the regulated and regulators.

## WHAT'S NEW? THE LATEST EQUIPMENT!

Computer's were everywhere! New software allows 3-D graphics and animation using small, inexpensive PC's.

Sony was crowing about selling their first U.S. HDTV - high definition television system. Cost was more than \$1 million! The firm that bought the system plans to transfer the video to 35mm film. Advantage of electronic cinematography is lower cost - also easy conversion to any medium. (Sony's booth covered 15,000 square feet - the convention's largest. I find it hard to believe, but one report had it that the Sony entourage numbered over 500!)

At least a dozen TV camera manufacturers had complete well-lit sets (complete with pretty girls) built in their large display booths so that everyone could operate them. (There was a lot of "zooming in" going on!)

New buzz words abounded! MTS (multi-channel sound), digital VTR recording, high tech demo-rooms, subcarrier marketing, satellite news gathering, compressed HDTV, quadraphonic AM, enhanced 525-line scanning, pseudo stereo generators ...and more!

The sales floor was simply bustling! A 10,000 square foot "technology suite" showcased high definition television with equipment contributed by more than twenty companies. The outside sales area must have had a hundred satellite dishes in it!

Two broadcast amateurs, Eric Rosenberg, WA6YBT, and John Bosak, K3IBN, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, had a small operational portable packet station with them. It consisted of an Icom IC-2AT talkie, a TAPR TNC-1, a Brother EP-44 electronic typewriter

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #10

May 1, 1986

with RS-232 port to a twin-lead J-pole!

USA Today, the nationwide newspaper published by Gannett announced introduction of their USA Today Broadcast. Instead of news, they will feature human interest stuff, lifestyle, personal finance, entertainment, etc.

## THE FORUMS - LISTENING TO THE PROS!

We heard a lot of talk about AM broadcast band expansion from 1605-1705 kHz. and the fact that AM'ers need more flexibility. The international AM conference opened in Geneva during the N.A.B. Broadcasters are concerned about power levels, possible new rules and the fact that 400 million radio sets in the U.S. can't receive most of the new spectrum that will be dished out! A direct report via satellite hookup was made to the convention floor from Geneva! AM radio is no longer dominant and now attracts less than one third of the radio listeners. Rebuilding of AM was a popular topic.

The N.A.B. supported the Privacy Act that would provide some privacy protection to most electronic communications that were not readily open to the public - such as satellite and studio feeds and data being carried on subcarriers and VBI (vertical blanking intervals. On the other hand, broadcasters felt it important that they be allowed to eavesdrop on police, Coast Guard, ship-to-shore, fire, air-to-ground and other "information sources."

Australian Rupert Murdoch was supposed to have addressed the N.A.B. regarding his planned fourth "Fox-Metromedia" network, but got tied up in England. He shelled out \$2 billion for Metromedia and \$575 million for 20th Century Fox!

Technical forums, FCC Question & Answer meetings, evening "night court" legal sessions, equipment showcases, management seminars and engineering workshops went from morning to late night spilling over from the Convention Center to local hotels.

A amateur Richard A. Tell, K5UJU, of the Environmental Protection Agency gave two programs on non-ionizing radiation - ....guidelines and determining human RF exposure.

## FAST & FURIOUS - Telecommunications News

¶ Has cable TV growth reached its peak? Possibly. For the fourth straight year, the cable industry is laying less cable than the year before. (50,200 miles in 1986 vs. 59,100 for 1985.) Reason? 75% of the nation is now wired with 44% actually subscribing. Another 15-20% will never get cable.

¶ VCR penetration, on the other hand, stands at 35% and is growing according to an Electronic Industries Association study. And 41% of those that don't own one, intend to buy one. VCR's dropped from an average price of \$728 in 1981 to \$420 in 1985.

¶ SPACE - the home satellite industry group - has fell on hard times. Revenue from dues and trade shows is nose-diving as more and more backyard dish dealers go out of business. SPACE has slashed their budget and their glossy magazine is now a newsletter.

¶ There seems to be a bitter struggle underway regarding the FCC planned 800-MHz MSS - Mobile Satellite Service. MSS proposes to extend mobile telephone service into previously unserved rural areas. Government officials want the spectrum for public safety use.

¶ Advanced Computer Controls, Inc., has a new Digital Voice Recorder that allows amateurs to leave recipient retrievable voice messages on a repeater via a touch-tone activated voice mailbox. They say their DVR device makes an amateur repeater an "information center." It can even be used to leave QST-type general information. (Cost: \$849.)

¶ White House press aide, Peter H. Roussel, is Houstonian K5JCC. Stu Meyer, W2GHK, Ex-QCWA prez, has been appointed as Regional Vice President at Large for Amateur Radio by the Armed Forced Communications and Electronics Association.

¶ Amateurs are trying to get the Mike/Headset law changed in Pennsylvania. At present it is illegal to wear one or more headphones while driving. PA Title 75 says it impairs the ability of the driver to hear traffic sounds. H.B.2256 has been introduced that specifies two-sided earphones.